WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Review of coal royalty

†280. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision of reviewing the royalty rate of coal in every three years;

(b) whether after 1994 the coal royalty in M.P. has been reviewed in the year 2002;

(c) whether as per the instructions of 11th Finance Commission in case of the absence of the review of royalty-rates by the Government of India the losses suffered by the States will be compensated by the Central Government;

(d) if so, losses suffered by M.P. in the absence of the review of the royalty rate for such a long time; and

(e) by when the compensation amount would be paid by Government to M.P. as per the recommendations made by the 11th Finance Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) and (b) The proviso to Section 9 (3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 provides that the Central Government shall not enhance the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years. The Act does not mandate that the royalty on coal should be revised after every three years. The royalty rates on coal were last enhanced on 11.10.94 and thereafter they were enhanced on 16.8.2002. These rates were made applicable to the State of Madhya Pradesh also.

(c) The 11th Finance Commission has made recommendations in regard to revision of royalty rates on coal which *inter-alia* include that royalty rates on minerals be revised regularly and the decision about the revision of the rates of royalty be taken well before the date on which the revision falls due so that it can be notified immediately after the completion of every three-year period as provided under the law. In

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

case the process of revision is not completed by the date the new revision is due, the States should be entitled to compensation. As brought out in reply to parts (a) and (b) above, since enhancement in royalty rates every three years is not mandatory under law the question of loss or compensation thereof does not arise. The royalty rates stand revised only with effect from the date of notification.

(d) and (e) Questions do not arise.

Investigation into C.I.L. affairs

281. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI had recently investigated the affairs of Coal India Ltd. (CIL); and

(b) if so, the details of the investigation and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) and (b) Coal India Limited has no information regarding recent investigation by CBI into affairs of CIL.

Safety of coal mine workers

282. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to ensure safety of coal mine workers; and

(b) whether any proposal to increase the compensation is under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) In addition to compliance with the provisions for safety as contained in the Mines Act, 1952 and the rules and regulations framed thereunder, following measures are taken to check accidents in coal mines and to make mining more safe:—

Coal India Limited:

CIL and its subsidiary companies are taking the following safety measures to prevent mine accidents:—

(i) Monitoring safety status of mines by Internal Safety Organisation (ISO) both at subsidiary level and at CIL Hq.